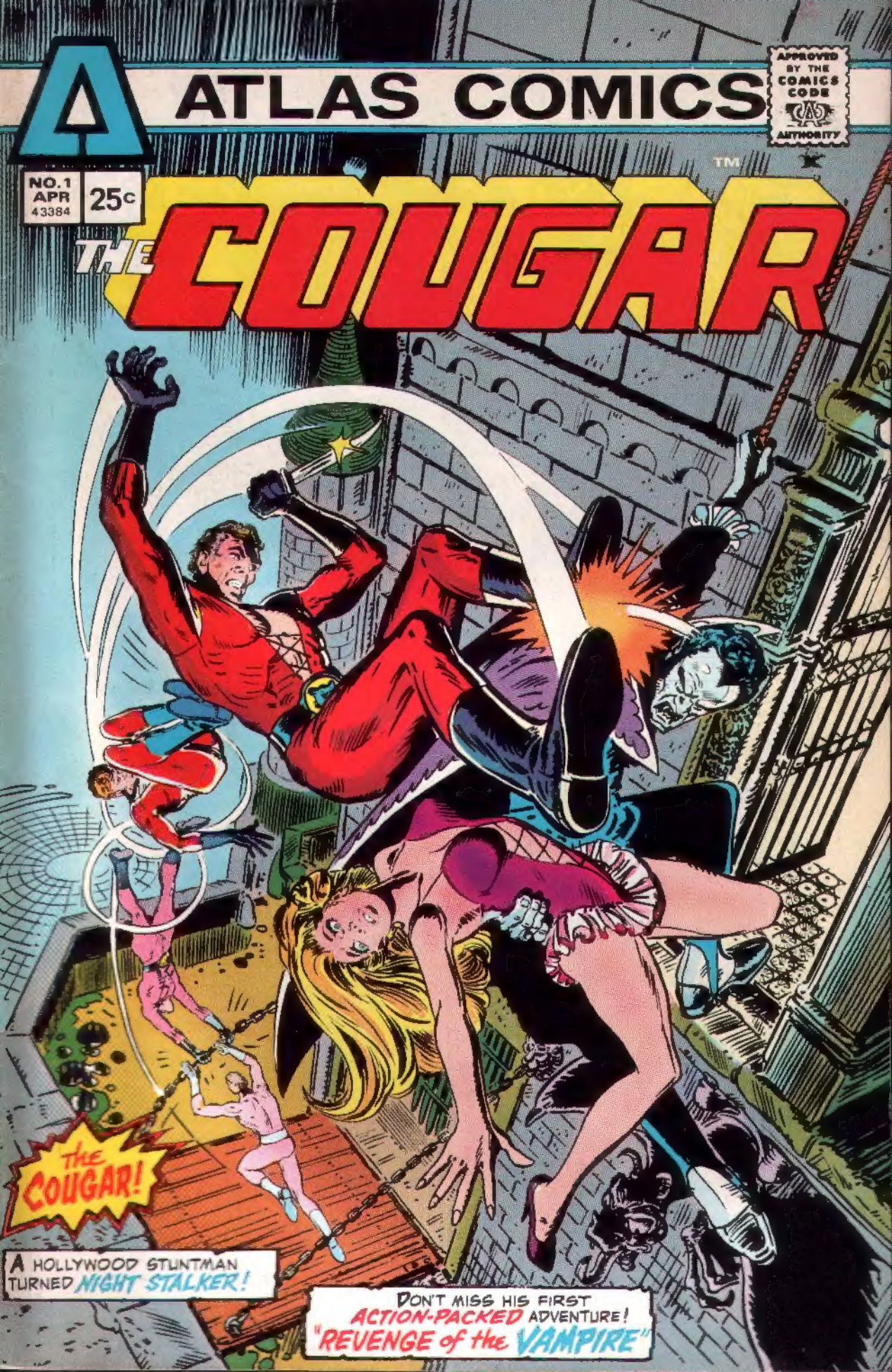
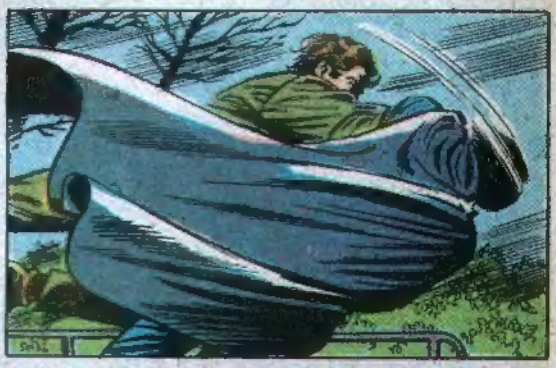
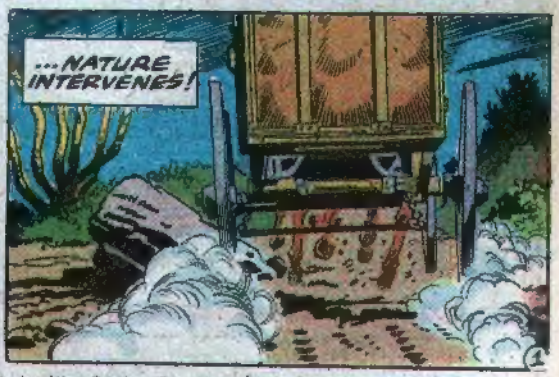

ATLAS COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 1
APR
43384
25c
THE COUGAR
THE COUGAR!
A HOLLYWOOD STUNTMAN TURNED NIGHT STALKER!
DON'T MISS HIS FIRST ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE!
"REVENGE of the VAMPIRE"






THE COUGAR Volume 1, Number 1, April 1975 is published bi-monthly by Atlas Comics. Executive offices and office of publication 717 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N.Y. 10022. Subscriptions in U.S., Canada and possessions $1.50 for six issues. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. © Copyright 1975 Seaboard Periodicals, Inc. All rights reserved. THE COUGAR is a trademark of Atlas Comics, a division of Seaboard Periodicals, Inc.

KRRRAASSSHHH!

BUT THIS TIMELY INTERVENTION WAS NOT NATURAL; CREATED INSTEAD, BY MOTION PICTURE TECHNICIANS. THESE MEN ARE PART OF A HIGHLY SKILLED TEAM WHOSE JOB IT IS TO CREATE SCREEN THRILLS AND ADVENTURE!

STUNTMAN JEFF RAND THRIVES ON THE DANGER OF HIS CHOSEN PROFESSION. HE IS KNOWN TO FELLOW STUNTMEN AS THE COUGAR, DUE TO HIS CAT-LIKE SPEED AND AGILITY..... ABILITIES THAT WILL BE PUT TO THE TEST WHEN JEFF FINDS OUT THAT...

# "VAMPIRES and COUGARS DON'T MIX!"

(THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO DAN CURTIS)

WRITTEN BY: STEVE MITCHELL

PENCILLED BY: DAN + FRANK ADKINS SPRINGER

INKED BY: FRANK SPRINGER

EDITED BY: JEFF ROVIN

DON'T WORRY, ABOUT BECKMAN, HARVE. HE'S JUST FEELING SORRY FOR HIMSELF. HE'S BEEN SADDLED WITH CRANKING OUT HORROR FLICKS FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.
AND AS FAR AS HE'S CONCERNED, THAT'S THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL!
AW, FORGET IT! C'MON--LET'S HEAD INTO TOWN AND HOIST A FEW WITH THE LOCALS!
YOU, SIR, HAVE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL! HEY--WHY NOT ASK THE LOVEBIRDS TO COME ALONG?

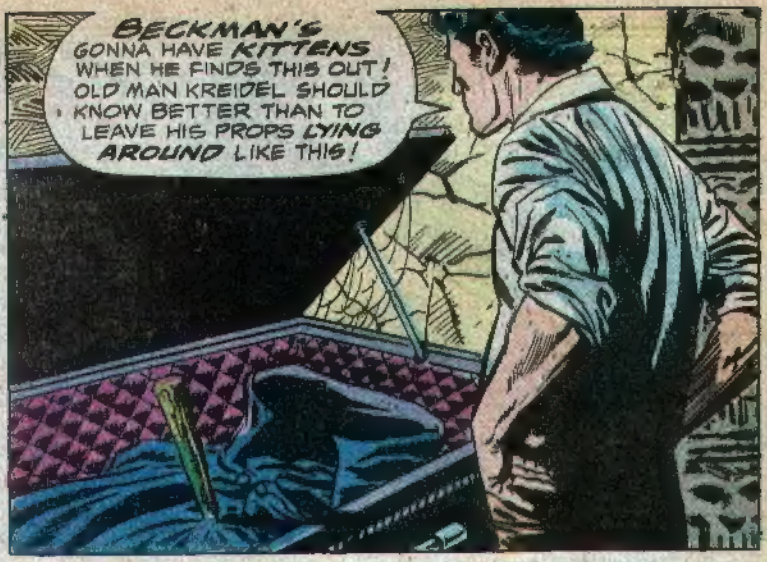
GOOD IDEA!
HEY, YOU TWO! HOW ABOUT JOINING US FOR A COUPLE OF BEERS?
I'D LIKE TO, JEFF, BUT I'VE GOT TO CHECK OUT THE CASTLE FOR TOMORROW'S SHOOTING!

HOW ABOUT YOU, MISS MAKE-UP LADY? THINK YOU CAN BEAR BEING AWAY FROM MISTER WONDERFUL FOR AWHILE?

WHAT DO YOU SAY, ROGER? CAN I RELY ON THESE TWO IF I'M ATTACKED BY A BLOODTHIRSTY VAMPIRE?
I THINK YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS! IT'S JUST TOO BAD SOME OF US MUST WORK WHILE OTHERS CAN PLAY!
SEE YOU LATER, GANG!
OKAY! MEET YOU IN TOWN, ROG!

THE OTHERS LEAVE, AND AS HE ENTERS THE CASTLE, ROGER BECOMES AWARE OF THE SCREAMING SILENCE--
--TOSSING OFF THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY BE TELLING HIM... ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK!
WHAT A SPOOKY PLACE! I'M GLAD WE'RE SHOOTING HERE DURING THE DAY!

HUH?! A COFFIN! THAT PROP SHOULDN'T BE HERE UNTIL TOMORROW!


BECKMAN'S GONNA HAVE KITTENS WHEN HE FINDS THIS OUT! OLD MAN KREIDEL SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO LEAVE HIS PROPS LYING AROUND LIKE THIS!

AND THAT STAKE... GEEZ! DOESN'T ANYBODY READ THE SCRIPT?
OUR MOVIE VAMPIRE'S KILLED BY SUNLIGHT!

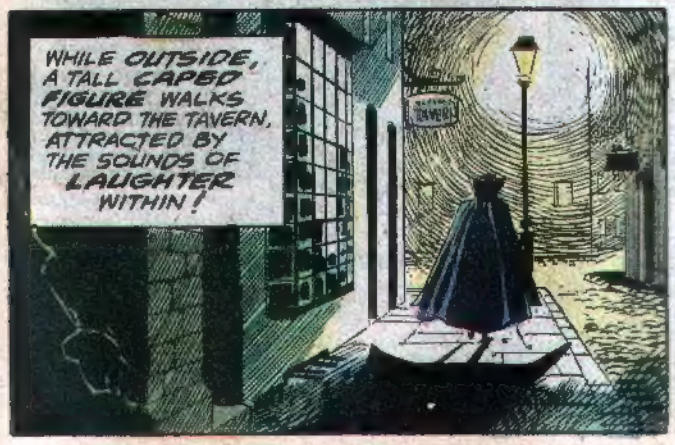
THE STAKE IS REMOVED AND A POWERFUL WIND FILLS THE ROOM...
...UNEARTHLY CALM IS REPLACED BY SHRILL SOUNDS OF THE SUPER-NATURAL!

AND ROGER GAZES WITH SILENT HORROR AS A HUMANOID SHAPE FILLS WHAT WAS ONCE EMPTY SPACE! REBIRTH COMPLETE, THE VAMPIRE --

...STRIKES!!
WAPP!

AAARRRGHHHH!

MEANWHILE, IN THE VILLAGE TAVERN...
SHALL WE HAVE ONE MORE BEFORE CALLING IT A NIGHT ?
THINK I'LL PASS, JEFF ! GOT MY BIG SCENE IN THE MORNING, AND A HANG-OVER'S NOT IN THE SCRIPT !
HARVE'S RIGHT ! TOMORROW'S CALL IS FOR SIX A.M., AND I CAN USE THE SLEEP !
WELL, GO ON BACK TO THE HOTEL ! I'LL MEET YOU THERE !


WHILE OUTSIDE, A TALL CAPED FIGURE WALKS TOWARD THE TAVERN, ATTRACTED BY THE SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER WITHIN !

IT'S BEEN A LONG WHILE SINCE THE FIEND'S HAD A VICTIM TO QUENCH HIS AGES-OLD THIRST FOR BLOOD.

BUT, READY TO STRIKE, THE VAMPIRE'S GLANCE CHANGES FROM INHUMAN LUST TO ONE OF PAINFUL RECOGNITION...
KATYA... MY LOVE!
MY HEART'S DESIRE! HOW I HAVE LONGED FOR YOU!
HEY, PAL! WATCH IT!
WHACK!
OKAY, FELLA-- YOU ASKED FOR IT!
STUNTMEN CAN WITHSTAND A GREAT DEAL OF PUNISHMENT! BUT AGAINST THE VAMPIRE'S SUPER INHUMAN STRENGTH, HARVE'S RIBS ARE SNAPPED LIKE DRIED TWIGS!
AAAHHHHH!
KR-ACK!
WHILE DOWN, BUT NOT OUT, THE COUGAR MAKES HIS MOVE WITH CATLIKE SPEED!
BULLSEYE!!
7

SOMEBODY CALL THE CONSTABLE AND A DOCTOR!

BUT A MERE FLYING KICK IS NOT ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE VAMPIRE. FOR THE MONSTER RISES, HIS FACE A MASK OF SNARLING FURY.
ALL IS SILENT IN THE TAVERN AS HUMAN AND INHUMAN CONFRONT ONE ANOTHER...

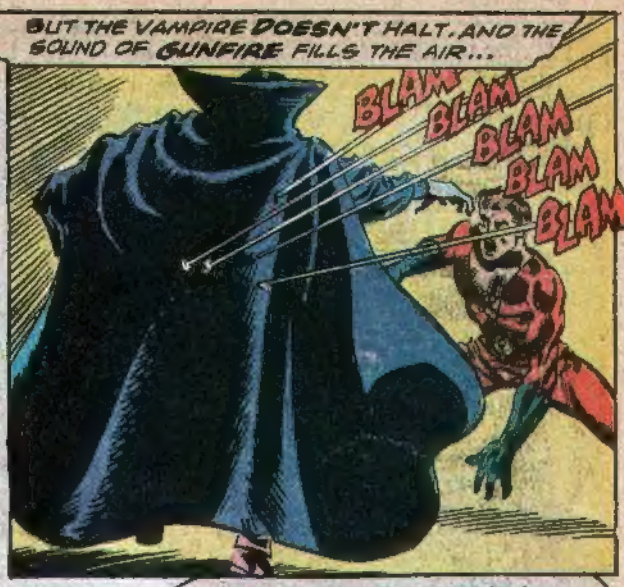
YOU MAY HAVE STOPPED HARVE, MISTER--
BUT I'M NOT THAT EASY TO TAKE OUT OF ACTION.

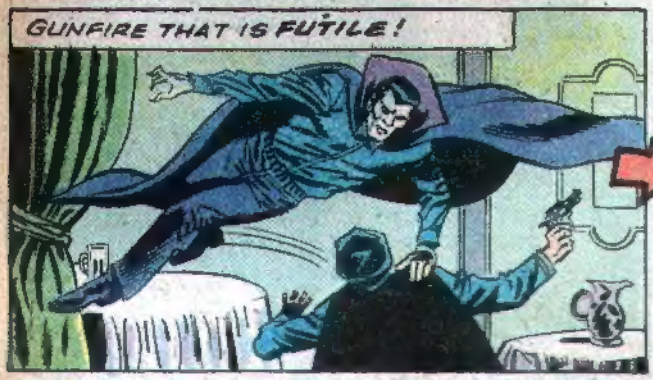
BUT A VAMPIRE IS NO PUSHOVER EITHER.
THUD!

LIKE THE CAT AFTER WHICH HE IS NAMED, THE COUGAR POUNCES UPON HIS UNDEAD ADVERSARY. BUT THE VAMPIRE IS READY FOR HIM.
CAUGHT! GOTTA DO SOMETHING FAST OR HE'LL BREAK ME IN TWO!

I HOPE... THIS... WORKS!

HALT...OR I'LL FIRE!!

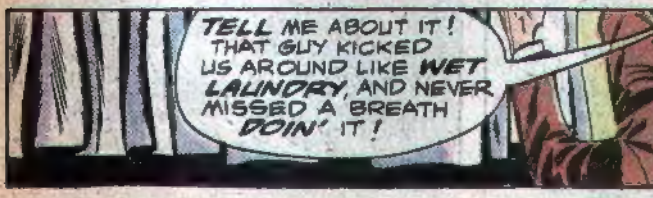

BUT THE VAMPIRE DOESN'T HALT, AND THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE FILLS THE AIR...
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

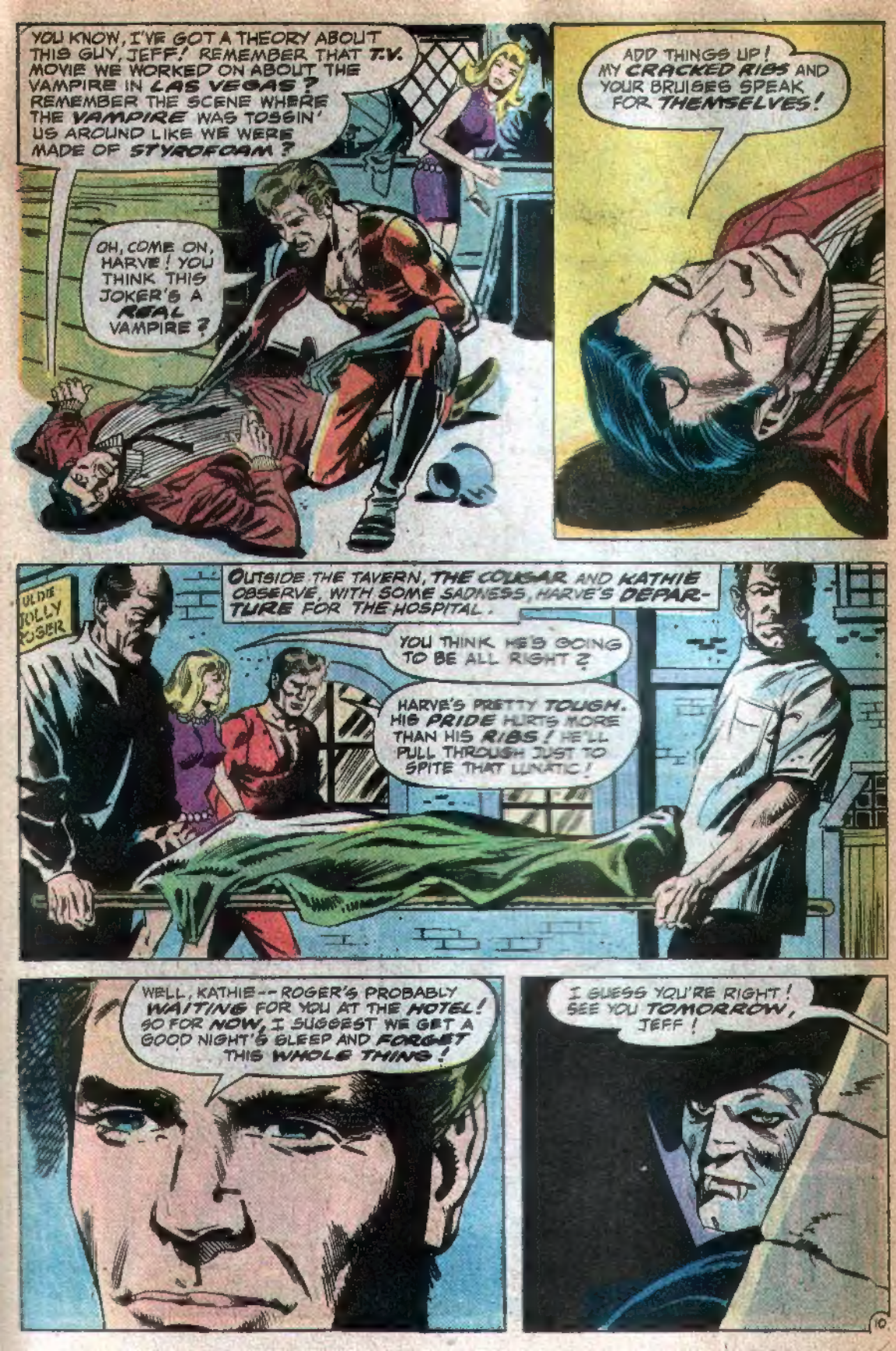

GUNFIRE THAT IS FUTILE!

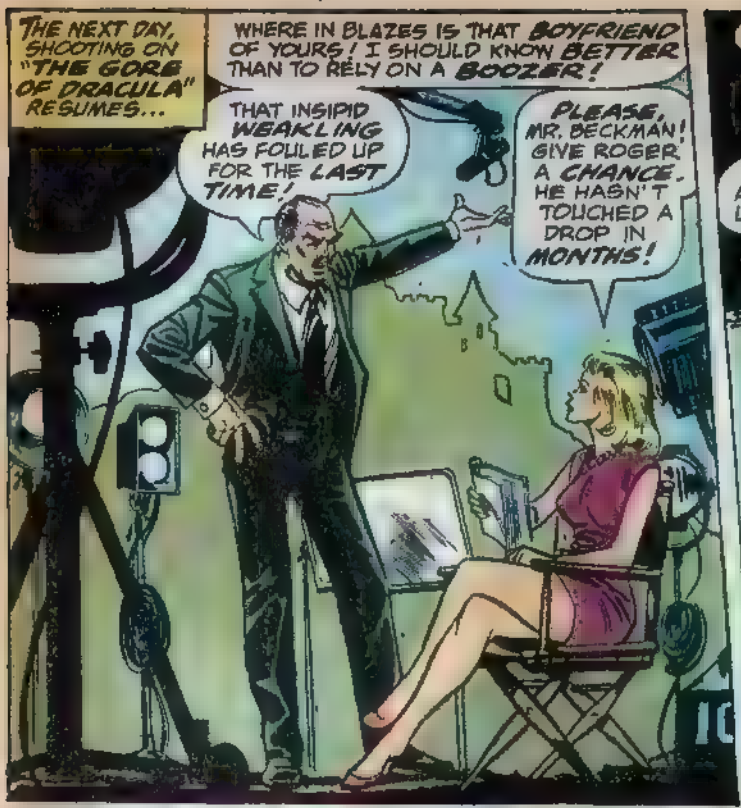
LOOK! HE'S ESCAPING! MAN! HE'S PRETTY SPRY FOR A GUY WHOSE BEEN KICKED AROUND AND SHOT AT POINT BLANK RANGE!
SIR--I DO NOT SEE THE HUMOR IN THIS!
WHO'S LAUGHING?

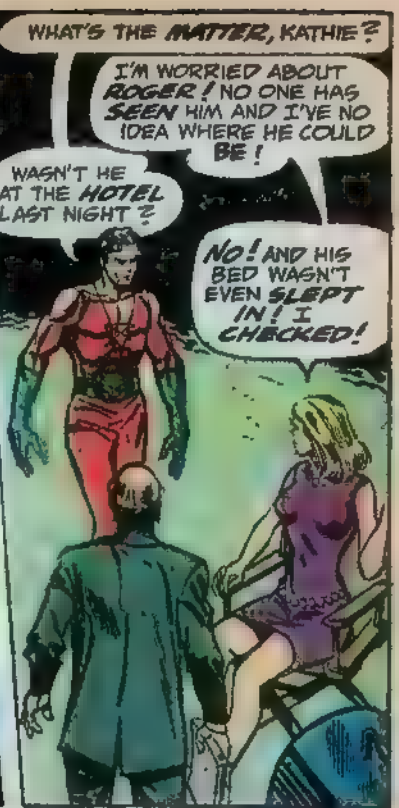
JEFF ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE! NOTHING A FEW BANDAIDS CAN'T FIX.
BUT I DON'T THINK HARVE FARED QUITE AS WELL AS I DID!

HOW YA DOIN' OL' BUDDY?
NOT SO GOOD! I FEEL LIKE A BAG OF LOOSE CHANGE. MY PRIDE'S HURT TOO!


TELL ME ABOUT IT! THAT GUY KICKED US AROUND LIKE WET LAUNDRY, AND NEVER MISSED A BREATH DOIN' IT!

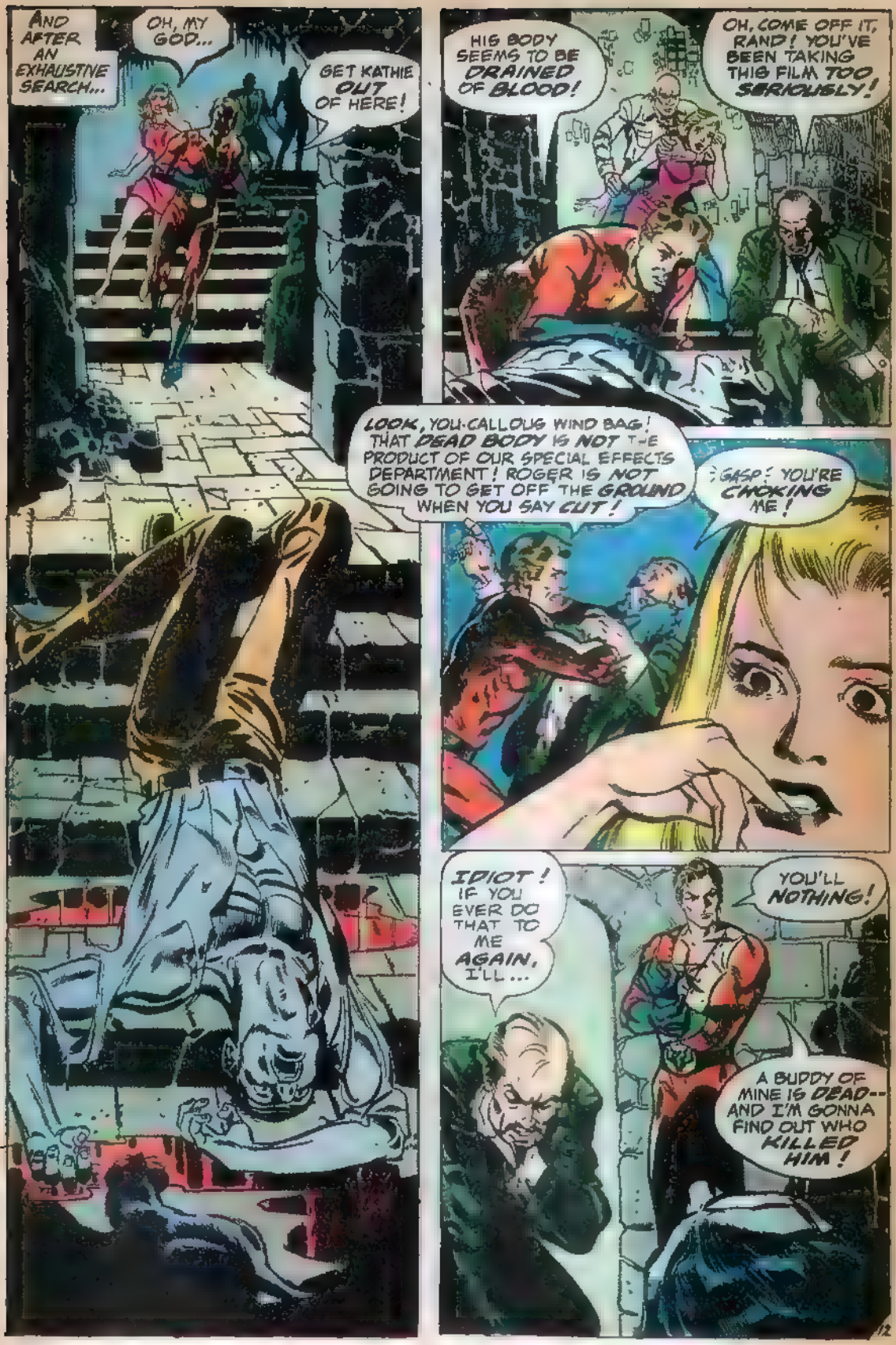

YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT A THEORY ABOUT THIS GUY, JEFF! REMEMBER THAT T.V. MOVIE WE WORKED ON ABOUT THE VAMPIRE IN LAS VEGAS? REMEMBER THE SCENE WHERE THE VAMPIRE WAS TOSSIN' US AROUND LIKE WE WERE MADE OF STYROFOAM?
OH, COME ON, HARVE! YOU THINK THIS JOKER'S A REAL VAMPIRE?
ADD THINGS UP! MY CRACKED RIBS AND YOUR BRUISES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES!
OUTSIDE THE TAVERN, THE COUGAR AND KATHIE OBSERVE, WITH SOME SADNESS, HARVE'S DEPARTURE FOR THE HOSPITAL.
YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
HARVE'S PRETTY TOUGH. HIS PRIDE HURTS MORE THAN HIS RIBS! HE'LL PULL THROUGH JUST TO SPITE THAT LUNATIC!
WELL, KATHIE -- ROGER'S PROBABLY WAITING FOR YOU AT THE HOTEL! SO FOR NOW, I SUGGEST WE GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP AND FORGET THIS WHOLE THING!
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! SEE YOU TOMORROW, JEFF!


THE NEXT DAY, SHOOTING ON "THE GORE OF DRACULA" RESUMES...
WHERE IN BLAZES IS THAT BOYFRIEND OF YOURS! I SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO RELY ON A BOOZER!
THAT INSIPID WEAKLING HAS FOULED UP FOR THE LAST TIME!
PLEASE, MR. BECKMAN! GIVE ROGER A CHANCE. HE HASN'T TOUCHED A DROP IN MONTHS!

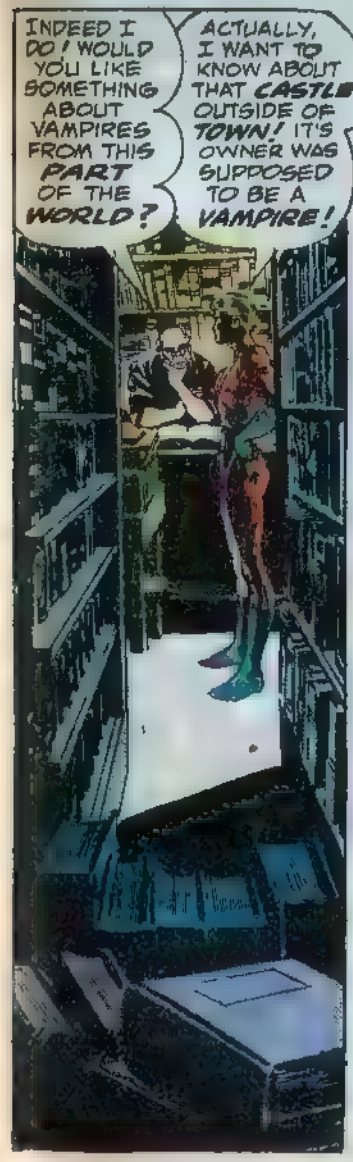

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KATHIE?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT ROGER! NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM AND I'VE NO IDEA WHERE HE COULD BE!
WASN'T HE AT THE HOTEL LAST NIGHT?
NO! AND HIS BED WASN'T EVEN SLEPT IN! I CHECKED!

WELL, RAND, I REST MY CASE!
NOT SO FAST, BECKMAN! ROGER WENT UP TO THE CASTLE LAST NIGHT! SO BEFORE YOU START FLAPPING YOUR JAWS, LET'S TAKE A LOOK!

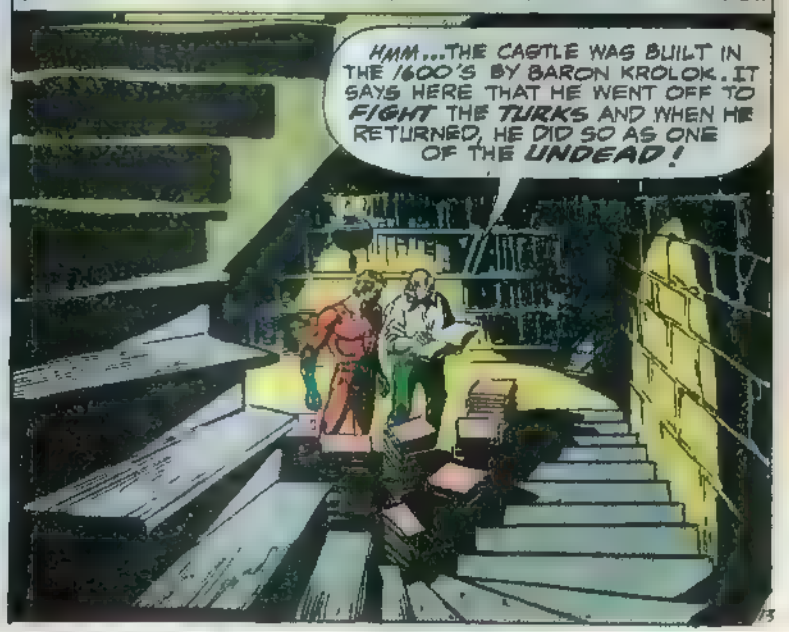
EVEN WITH AN EARLY MORNING SUN SHINING BRIGHTLY, THE CASTLE RETAINS ITS DARK FOREBODING ATMOSPHERE!
WHY WOULD HE BE IN THERE?
IF YOU RECALL, HE CAME UP HERE LAST NIGHT TO MAKE NOTES FOR TODAY'S SHOOTING!
LET'S GO INSIDE!

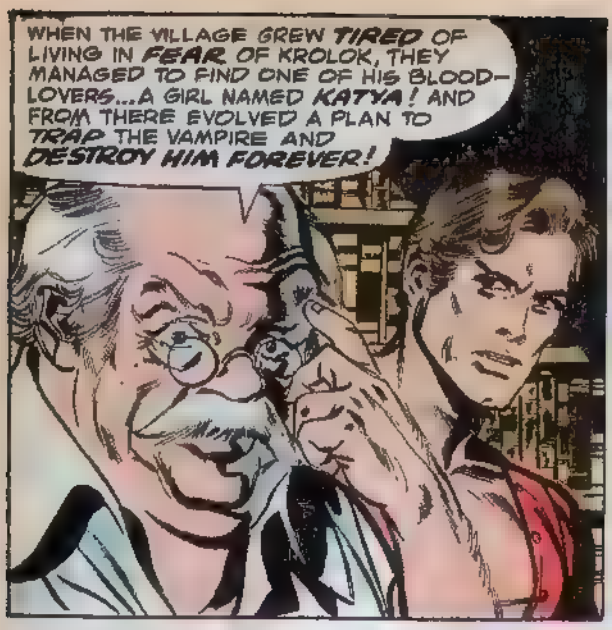

AND AFTER AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH...
OH, MY GOD...
GET KATHIE OUT OF HERE!
HIS BODY SEEMS TO BE DRAINED OF BLOOD!
OH, COME OFF IT, RAND! YOU'VE BEEN TAKING THIS FILM TOO SERIOUSLY!
LOOK, YOU CALLOUS WIND BAG! THAT DEAD BODY IS NOT THE PRODUCT OF OUR SPECIAL EFFECTS DEPARTMENT! ROGER IS NOT GOING TO GET OFF THE GROUND WHEN YOU SAY CUT!
GASP! YOU'RE CHOKING ME!
IDIOT! IF YOU EVER DO THAT TO ME AGAIN, I'LL...
YOU'LL NOTHING!
A BUDDY OF MINE IS DEAD-- AND I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHO KILLED HIM!

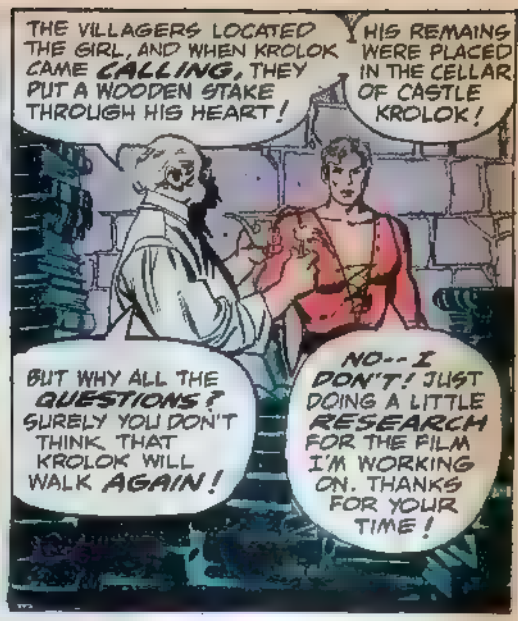
LATER, WITH SHOOTING POSTPONED AND AFTER COOLING OFF FROM HIS CONFRONTATION WITH BECKMAN, THE COUGAR ENTERS AN OLD BOOKSTORE IN TOWN HOPING TO LOCATE SOME LORE ON THE VAMPIRE...

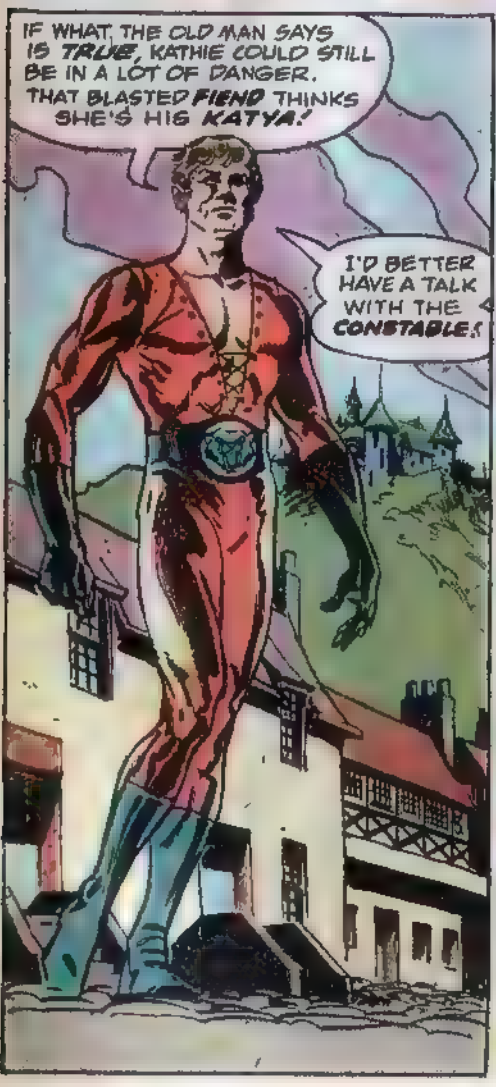


AND IN THE DUSTY RECESSES OF THIS AGES-OLD STORE..

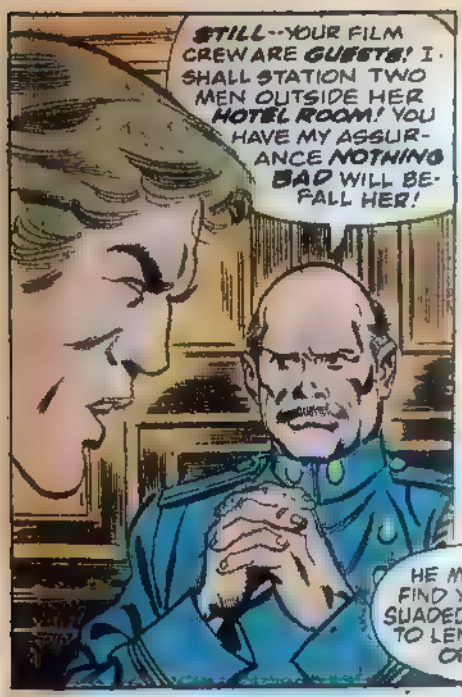


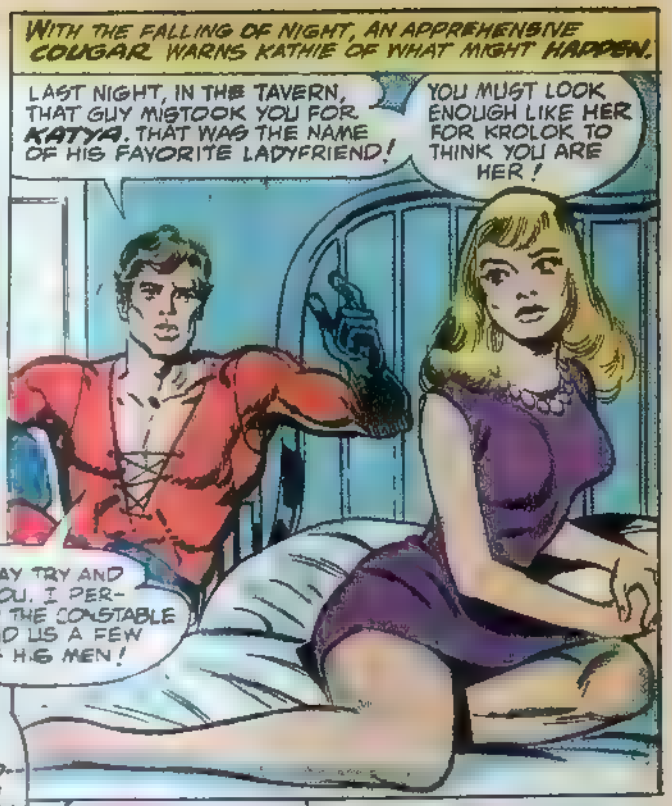

WHEN THE VILLAGE GREW TIRED OF LIVING IN FEAR OF KROLOK, THEY MANAGED TO FIND ONE OF HIS BLOOD-LOVERS...A GIRL NAMED KATYA! AND FROM THERE EVOLVED A PLAN TO TRAP THE VAMPIRE AND DESTROY HIM FOREVER!


THE VILLAGERS LOCATED THE GIRL, AND WHEN KROLOK CAME CALLING, THEY PUT A WOODEN STAKE THROUGH HIS HEART!
HIS REMAINS WERE PLACED IN THE CELLAR OF CASTLE KROLOK!
BUT WHY ALL THE QUESTIONS? SURELY YOU DON'T THINK THAT KROLOK WILL WALK AGAIN!
NO--I DON'T! JUST DOING A LITTLE RESEARCH FOR THE FILM I'M WORKING ON. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!


IF WHAT THE OLD MAN SAYS IS TRUE, KATHIE COULD STILL BE IN A LOT OF DANGER. THAT BLASTED FIEND THINKS SHE'S HIS KATYA!
I'D BETTER HAVE A TALK WITH THE CONSTABLE!

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
LOOK, HERR BAUMER, I DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THE VAMPIRE THEORY ANY MORE THAN YOU DO! BUT AFTER THAT SCENE IN THE TAVERN, AND ROGER'S DEATH AT THE CASTLE, KATHIE SHOULD HAVE SOME POLICE PROTECTION!
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, HERR RAND! I SHOT AND HIT THAT FIEND IN THE TAVERN SEVERAL TIMES!


STILL--YOUR FILM CREW ARE GUESTS! I SHALL STATION TWO MEN OUTSIDE HER HOTEL ROOM! YOU HAVE MY ASSURANCE NOTHING BAD WILL BEFALL HER!
HE MAY TRY AND FIND YOU. I PERSUADED THE CONSTABLE TO LEND US A FEW OF HIS MEN!


WITH THE FALLING OF NIGHT, AN APPREHENSIVE COUGAR WARNS KATHIE OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
LAST NIGHT, IN THE TAVERN, THAT GUY MISTOOK YOU FOR KATYA. THAT WAS THE NAME OF HIS FAVORITE LADYFRIEND!
YOU MUST LOOK ENOUGH LIKE HER FOR KROLOK TO THINK YOU ARE HER!

THEN--YOU'RE SURE KROLOK IS A VAMPIRE?
EVERTHING FITS! ROGER'S BODY DRAINED OF BLOOD--KROLOK COMING TO THE TAVERN IN SEARCH OF HIS BRIDE! THEN THERE'S HIS SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH--AND THE FACT THAT BULLETS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON HIM!
BUT WITH THE POLICE OUTSIDE, AND ME NEXT DOOR, YOU'LL BE PERFECTLY SAFE!

BUT THE COUGAR HAS SPOKEN TOO SOON, FOR OUTSIDE...
YOU! STOP RIGHT THERE! ONE MORE STEP AND WE'LL BE FORCED TO--
SPARE ME YOUR THREATS, GENTLEMEN!

I SHALL GO WHERE I PLEASE!
MOST PEOPLE CAN BE INTIMIDATED BY AN OFFICER OF THE LAW! BUT A VAMPIRE IS NOT MOST PEOPLE!

A VAMPIRE DOES WHAT HE WANTS, AND DESTROYS ANYONE OR ANYTHING THAT GETS IN THE WAY!
AAARRGH

THAT INCLUDES DOORS... AND COUGARS!
KRR-ASSH
WHAT THE...!

OUT OF MY WAY, TROUBLE-SOME FLEA!

KRUMP

PLEASE--STAY AWAY! I AM NOT YOUR KATYA!
SILENCE! YOU ARE MINE, NOW AND YOU WILL REMAIN MINE FOREVER!
IMMORTAL AND UNDEAD!

AND TWENTY MINUTES LATER, A BATTERED COUGAR REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.

OH! MY HEAD! KATHIE? KATHIE, WHERE ARE YOU?!

SHE'S GONE--AND KORLOK'S GOT HER!

DAMN! THINK, MAN! IF THAT OLD MAN AT THE BOOK SHOP WAS RIGHT ABOUT KORLOK--

--THEN THE BARON'S GONNA PUT THE BITE ON KATHIE! AND THE PRIVACY OF HIS CASTLE IS THE BEST PLACE FOR THAT!

OUTSIDE, A NEWLYWED COUPLE PULLS UP IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL. WEARY FROM HOURS OF DRIVING, THEY ARE OBLIVIOUS TO EVERYTHING--SAVE THE THOUGHT OF A NICE, WARM BED IN WHICH TO REST THEIR TIRED BODIES.

I SAY, MILLICENT! THIS PLACE LOOKS MOST ACCOMODATING. LET'S STAY HERE TONIGHT!

OH, REGGIE! YOU'RE SO ROMANTIC!

QUITE!

I SAY! WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'LL PARK YOUR CAR, SIR!

YOU CAN PICK IT UP IN THE MORNING!

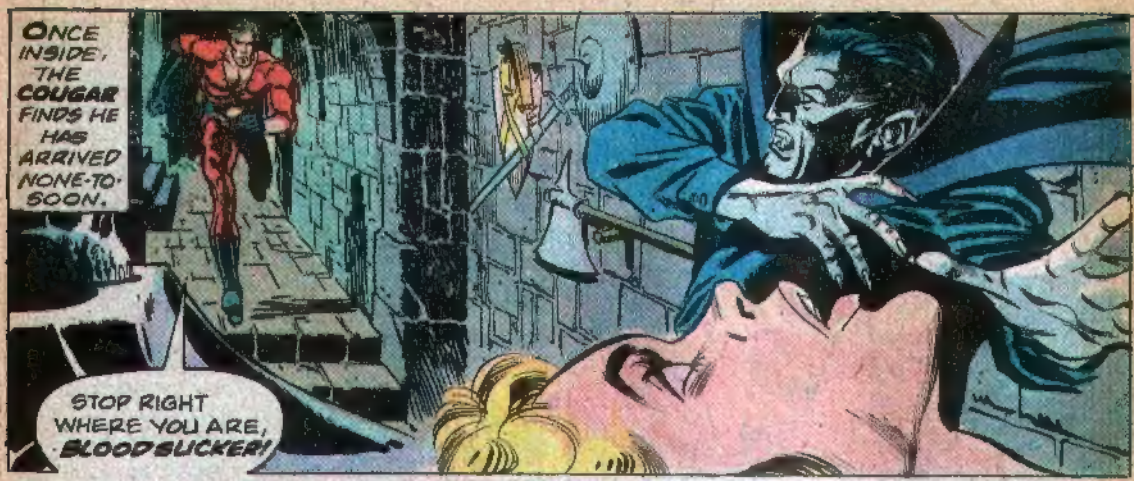
VROOOM

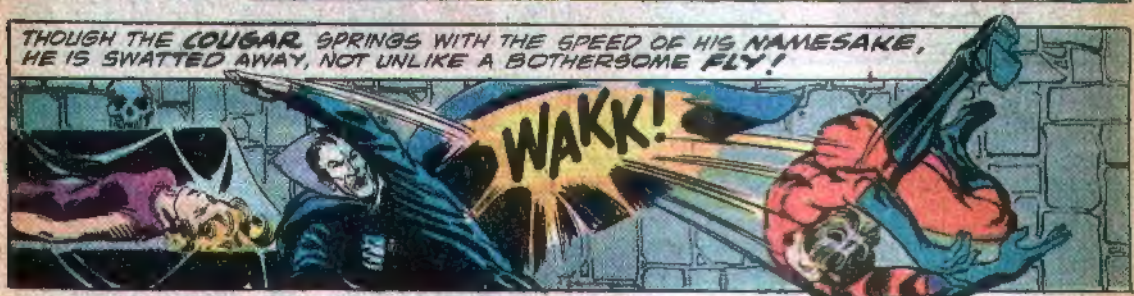
FOR YOUR SAKE, KATHIE, I HOPE I MAKE IT IN TIME!

SOON, A DESPERATE COUGAR PULLS UP BEFORE KROLOK'S CASTLE...

SCREEE!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR SUBTLETY! I'LL USE THE FRONT DOOR!


ONCE INSIDE, THE COUGAR FINDS HE HAS ARRIVED NONE-TO-SOON.
STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE, BLOODSUCKER!


THOUGH THE COUGAR SPRINGS WITH THE SPEED OF HIS NAMESAKE, HE IS SWATTED AWAY, NOT UNLIKE A BOTHERSOME FLY!
WAKK!

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRY THE DIRECT APPROACH!
STILL, IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN WHAT I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!
I HOPE YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO SWORDS, FANGFACE!
THOUGH THIS BLADE HAS WELL-SERVED MANY A USABLE OWNER...
OH MAN!
...RIGHT NOW, IT IS USELESS!
I HAVE A FEELING I'M GONNA GET SLAUGHTERED FOR THIS!
SWAK!
YEOWWW!

WITH THE STRENGTH OF TWENTY, KROLOK LIFTS THE COUGAR OFF THE GROUND WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE.
WITH SUPERBLY TONED MUSCLES THAT HAVE SUFFERED HOLLYWOOD'S MOST DIFFICULT STUNTS...
THE COUGAR GRABS SOME NEARBY DRAPERY AND...
NO WAY I'M GONNA GET... OUT... OF THIS-- UNLESS--
THE CURTAIN! IF HE... CAN'T SEE... HE CAN'T SQUEEZE!
WAK!
USING HIS ADVANTAGE, THE COUGAR LETS LOOSE WITH A SERIES OF HAY-MAKERS GUARANTEED TO KNOCK AN ELEPHANT INTO THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK!
BUT, A VAMPIRE IS A TOUGH OPPONENT--AND JUST ONE OF HIS HAYMAKERS WILL KNOCK THAT SAME ELE-PHANT INTO THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH!
SPLAT!
HE'S GOT ME BEAT! NOTHING I DO HAS ANY--
THUMP
--EFFECT! THAT TABLE BEHIND KROLOK LOOKS BRITTLE ENOUGH--IF I CAN JUST BREAK IT--
THE BARON'S CRUEL SMILE CHANGES TO A MASK OF HIDEOUS EVIL AS HE CLOSES IN ON THE COUGAR!

THIS IS IT, JEFF BABY--
TO GET TO THE TABLE, YOU'VE GOT TO GO OVER THE COUNT--
--MISS AND YOU'RE--
--COLD MEAT!
AAAAGH!
OH...
MY...
GOD!
WITH KROLOK DESTROYED, KATHIE SNAPS OUT OF HER HYPNOTIC TRANCE.
JEFF! WHERE'S KROLOK?
THAT DUST ON THE FLOOR IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HIM!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'VE GOT SOME BRUISES TO REMEMBER HIM BY, BUT I'LL LIVE!
C'MON BABE, LET'S GO HOME!
END
20